

Montana University System – HB 2 Budget

Student Transferability Decision Package – DP 1051

Accountability Measures

During the interim, the Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget Subcommittee (PEPB), in the process of recommending executive consideration of funding for \$1.475 million funding for improvements to the transferability of student credits, recommended that accountability measures be applied to this appropriation.¹

Given the complexity of the transferability issue across the university system, the legislature may want to consider adding an accountability measure should the following decision package in the executive budget for the 2009 biennium be approved:

In Executive Budget...Apply Accountability Measures to:

- DP 1051 - Improve Transferability and Student Data (OTO) - The executive budget increases general fund by \$1.5 million for the 2009 biennium to fund a comprehensive, system-wide program to improve the transferability of student coursework between the campuses of the university system. This proposal includes an additional 2.50 FTE. This proposal includes approximately \$70,000 over the biennium to specifically support enhancements to dual enrollment programs as part of the student transferability initiative.

Proposed Accountability Measure (in a companion bill to HB2):

The university system is encouraged to:

- Create transfer pathways in 22 different program and subject areas
- Adopt articulation agreements between all university units, community colleges and tribal colleges for those 22 transfer pathways
- Increase the number of pre and postsecondary educational credits that are accepted by the university by 25 percent, including but not limited to dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, and tech prep
- Reduce the number of appeals of transfer credit decisions below the rate that is documented for the 2006-2007 base year, toward the goal of reducing the rate by at least 50% by the 2009-2010 year

By August 2008, the office of the commissioner of higher education shall report to the education and local government interim committee success in achieving the measures contained above. If the measures contained above are achieved, then the education and local government interim committee shall recommend to the office of budget and program planning that the appropriation of \$ ***, contained in House Bill No. 2 at line ____ of the 60th legislature may be treated as present law base and be part of the base budget for the 61st legislature.

*** Decision Package details states that \$312,500/year would be needed ongoing.

¹ Initiative DP #3: Transferability and Integrated Student Data System (restricted, OTO)

The PEPB recommends a restricted, one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$1.475 million to support improvements to the transferability and student data systems as follows:

- \$645,000 biennial appropriation to support development of a Data Warehouse and implementation of the required assessment models
- \$600,000 biennial appropriation to support the management of the project
- \$115,000 in FY 2008 to support faculty program council expenses
- \$115,000 in FY 2009 to continue support for faculty program council expenses, contingent upon the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education providing a report, to be presented to the PEPB by May 15, 2008 that demonstrates the following:
 - transfer pathways have been created in 22 different program and subject areas

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- that the number of potential pre-post-secondary educational credits that are accepted by the university system (e.g. dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, tech prep, etc.) has been increased by 25 percent

The sustainable components of this one-time-only appropriation may become an ongoing appropriation in the subsequent 2011 biennium budget contingent upon a report to the PEPB by August 2008 that demonstrates progress toward the following accountability measures:

- that appeals of transfer credit decisions have been reduced by 50% from the baseline year of 2006-2007
- that K-12 graduation standards and post-secondary proficiency standards in composition, mathematics and science will be aligned
- that articulation agreements between all university units, community colleges and tribal colleges are in place for the 22 transfer pathways
- that retention and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses are the same as rates for students that have not transferred between campuses

Approved by PEPB at meeting on Monday, June 12, 2006